THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) India and Russia have a shared concern on terrorism. Both sides, in the last meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, held in New Delhi, on 24 October, 2006, emphasized the importance of action by all States to deny safe haven to terrorists.

(b) Both sides also agreed that ensuring the security of oil and gas installations was an important component of counter-terrorism strategies. During the 24 October, 2006 meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, it was decided to exchange information on how best to meet the threat to oil and gas installations.

(c) The agreed steps to combat international terrorism included:

(i) Information Sharing;
(ii) Capacity Building;
(iii) Inter-Agency Cooperation.

Rail link between India and Pakistan

2451. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India and Pakistan had decided in principle to introduce freight services in Munabao-Khokhrapar rail sector and increase the frequency of freight trains between Wagha and Attari to facilitate cross-border movement of goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof by indicating Governments' observations on security angle and risk involve for the establishment of rail link between Indo-Pak border?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Pakistan has not agreed to India's proposal on opening Munabao-Khokrapar rail sector for trade. A rail link across Attari-Wagah is already in operation between the two countries. On an average, about 10-12 freight trains run between the two countries in a month. India has proposed an increase in frequency of goods trains but Pakistan has not yet accepted the proposal. All necessary security precautions are taken by Government in the trade of goods by train.